

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

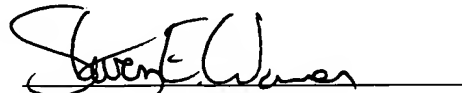
Claims 16, 17, 20-23, 28, 32-34 and 36-41 are presented for consideration. Claims 16, 17, 20, 28, 32, 37 and 41 are independent. Claim 35 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 16, 17, 32, 33, 36-39 and 41 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

In this regard, Applicants have amended the above-noted claims in light of the Examiner's comments set forth in the attachment to the Advisory Action dated June 30, 2005. Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's comments, and solely to advance prosecution, Applicants have clarified the relationship among the light source, the projection optical system, and the light beams, for example. Applicants submit that these changes obviate the concerns raised by the Examiner.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 20-23 and 28 have been indicated as being allowable. In addition to those claims being allowable, Applicants submit that claims 16, 17, 32-34 and 36-41 patentably define features of the exposure method, the device manufacturing method, and the projection exposure apparatus of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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